

34. The slot machine of claim 30, further including a microcontroller fixed to said one of said plurality of mechanical reels for controlling an output of said miniature image display.

35. A spinning reel slot machine, comprising:

a plurality of mechanical reels that, in response to a wager, are rotated and stopped to randomly place symbol regions on said plurality of reels in visual association with a display area; and

at least one video display for simulating a mechanical reel and displaying a plurality of video symbols adjacent to said plurality of mechanical reels, said video symbols, in response to said wager, moving across said video display and stopping on said video display at approximately the same time as said plurality of mechanical reels are stopped.

36. The slot machine of claim 35, wherein said video display also provides diagnostics.

37. A spinning reel slot machine, comprising:

a plurality of mechanical reels that, in response to a wager, are rotated and stopped to randomly place symbols on said plurality of reels in visual association with a display area, one of said plurality of mechanical reels having a symbol location having first features that are visible in response to exposure to a first wavelength of light and second features that are visible in response to exposure to a second wavelength of light, said first features defining a first symbol in said symbol location and said second features defining a second symbol in said symbol location; and

a light source located adjacent to said one of said plurality of mechanical reels and providing light into said display area, said light source capable of delivering said first wavelength of light to said symbol location and said second wavelength of light to said symbol location.

38. The slot machine of claim 37, wherein each of said plurality of mechanical reels has a symbol location with first features that are visible in response to exposure at one wavelength of light and second features that are visible in response to exposure to another wavelength of light.

39. The slot machine of claim 37, wherein said first and second wavelengths are in the visible light spectrum.

40. The slot machine of claim 37, wherein one of said first and second wavelengths is in the ultraviolet spectrum.

41. The slot machine of claim 37, wherein said light source is an LED display.

42. The slot machine of claim 37, wherein said light source also provides backlighting for symbols on said one of said mechanical reels.

43. The slot machine of claim 37, wherein said one of said mechanical reels further includes a transparent window at a symbol location, said light source capable of displaying a video symbol through said transparent window.

44. The slot machine of claim 37, wherein said light source is located behind said one of said mechanical reels.

45. A spinning reel slot machine, comprising:

a plurality of mechanical reels that, in response to a wager, are rotated and stopped to randomly place symbols on said plurality of reels in visual association with a display area, one of said plurality of mechanical reels having a symbol location having first features that are visible in response to exposure to a first polarization state of light and second features that are visible in response to exposure to a second polarization state of light, said first features defining a first symbol at said symbol location and said second features defining a second symbol at said symbol location;

a light source located behind said one of said plurality of mechanical reels and in alignment with said display area; and

a polarizing filter associated with said light source and capable of transmitting to said display area said first polarization state of light and said second polarization state of light.

46. The slot machine of claim 45, wherein each of said plurality of mechanical reels has a symbol location with first features that are visible in response to exposure to one polarization state of light and second features that are visible in response to exposure to another polarization state of light.

47. The slot machine of claim 45, wherein said polarizing filter is a unitary component capable of being rotated to alter said polarization state of light from said light source.

48. The slot machine of claim 45, wherein said light source and said polarizing filter are two distinct components.

49. The slot machine of claim 48, wherein said polarizing filter is between said light source and said display area.

50. The slot machine of claim 45, wherein said first and second features are comprised of a film of polarized material.

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